ILO Programme for Elimination of Child Labour

*91. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ILO Programme for elimination of child labour activities in India has been launched in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programmes; and

(c) what steps have been or are being taken towards the implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a)Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) India is participating in ILO's programme entitled the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) which has been initiated in 1992. IPEC is being executed by ILO with financial assistance from Germany and other donor countries.

The IPEC has been launched with the objective of reducing the incidence of child labour and its progressive elimination. The Programme mainly seeks to complement the resources and the efforts made by the participating countries in order to enable them, within the context of their national policies, to promote conditions for achieving this objective. It also envisages bringing about an increased awareness in the international community for this purpose. A major component of IPEC is to encourage, promote and support voluntary and other organisations in implementing action-oriented programmes at field level, within the framework of national polices and programmes related to child labour. The Programme Steering Committee in ILO, of which India is a member, has earmarked US $ 2.25 million (equivalent to Rs. 6.97 crores approx.) for this programme in India for the period ending 31st December, 1993.

To ensure proper implementation of the programme, a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising representatives of Government, employers, workers and N.G.O.s has been constituted. For selection of programme to be recommended to ILO after due scrutiny, the NSC has framed broad guidelines. Programme recommended by the NSC are considered for approval by the Programme Steering Committee, ILO. Funds are released to the organisations directly after they enter into sub-contracts with ILO. So far ILO has released funds to 30 organisations for implementing as the approved programmes.

Indo-China Border Trade

*92. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently reviewed the status of Indo-China border trade with the Government of China through signing a trade protocol in 1993 and have decided to extend the trade to the other points on the Sino Indian borders;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and

(c) what are the results of the review on the Indo-China border trade and progress made by it since its begining in 1992 alongwith export and import commitments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Border trade with China was resumed across Lipulekh Pass with Indian trade mart at Gunji in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh and Chinese trade mart at Pulan in Tibet Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China. Border was open for trade from 15.7.92 to 7.10.92. Goods worth about Rs. 16.5 lakhs were traded. The trade was only in barter mode. The main items of imports and exports in the border trade were:

Imports	Exports
1. Raw wool	1. Textiles
2. Sheep	2. Misri
3. Goats	3. Blankets
4. Yak tails	4. Raw wax
5. Borax	5. Dry Fruits
6. Salt	6. Aluminium Uten sils

During the 4th Session of India-China Joint Group meeting on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology held in Beijing on 4-5th Jan., 1993, both sides reviewed the status of border trade and agreed in principle for its extension to other points on the India-China border. Details in this regard are under consideration.

Steps for passing on the benefits of whole sale price index to consumer by retailers

*93. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Indian Express dated the 30th January, 1993 under the caption "Sharp plunge in the wholesale price of provisions, Retailers take customers for a ride"; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take to ensure that the benefit of fall in wholesale price is passed on to the consumers by retailers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is always a time lag between changes in Wholesale Price Index and the consequent change in the Retail Price Index, The magnitude of variation varies from commodity to commodity and market to market. The Retail Prices are bound to be higher than the wholesale prices and part of the difference between the two prices may be due to varietal or quality considerations, differences in transport and handling cost and the demand/supply position of a particular commodity at a particular point of time. During the period April, 1992 to December, 1992, whereas the rate of inflation, measured in terms of percentage variation in W.P.I. declined from 13.9% to 8.4%, the decline in the Consumer Price Index, which reflects the retail prices, was from 14.4% to 8.0%. In respect of some of the essential commodities, the respective percentage variations in the wholesale and retail prices in Delhi during the period January, 1992 to January, 1993 is as under:—

S.No.	Commodity	Wholesale Prices % Variation	Retail Prices % Variation
1.	Atta	−19.14	−15.18
2.	Arhar	−35.26	−26.12
3.	Rice Permal	+1.74	+2.77
4.	Maize	−26.82	−10.53
5.	Mustard Oil	−15.79	−16.43
6.	Wheat	−18.20	−5.30

It may be observed from the above that decline in wholesale prices of essential commodities has had a direct bearing on the fall in retail price.

Extension given to Officers by E.P.F. Authorities

*94. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain retired officers, gazetted/non gazetted have been given extension/re-employment by the E.P.F. authorities during the last three years;

(b) if so, full details thereof;

(c) whether extension/re-employment had been given as in (a) above against the rules and policy of the Government;

(d) if so, reasons and persons responsible for this; and

(e) the reaction of Government regarding extension/re-employment in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, no officer has been given re-employment in the EPF Organisation. However, during 1991, one officer of the rank of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (Gr. II) was given extension for four months, and during 1992, two officers of the rank of Regional